

Message Text

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43/52

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00 AF-10 NEA-10

SS-14 PM-09 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03 H-02 NSC-10

IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /130 W
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O 151529 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2993

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0516

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

FROM US REP ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: ICAO INQUIRY TEAM - LIBYAN AIRLINES INCIDENT

REF: MONTREAL 0450

1. IN MARCH 14 COUNCIL MEETING SECGEN GAVE STATUS REPORT ON APPOINTMENT TEAM MEMBERS AND TRAVEL PLANS.

2. TEAM LEADER IS RUSSELL H. WATTS, CHIEF, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SECTION, ICAO, MONTREAL; O. M. BARBOSA, RAC/ ATS, EXPERT FROM ICAO REGIONAL OFFICE/ LIMA; ROBERT SMITH (ASSUMED TO BE U. S. CITIZEN), OPERATIONS EXPERT FROM ICAO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM/ IRAN; GOPALA KRISHNAN, COMMUNICATIONS/ NAVAIDS EXPERT FROM ICAO/ MONTREAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAM (RECENTLY WORKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES); K. CHURCHES, METEOROLOGY EXPERT, ICAO REGIONAL OFFICE/ CAIRO.

FYI: LEBANON ASKED NATIONALITIES TEAM MEMBERS BUT WITHDREW REQUEST WHEN SECGEN INDICATED ALL TRAVEL ON UN " LAISSEZ- PASSER" AND ARE INTERNATIONAL SERVANTS.
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IN REPLY TO QUESTION RE AN AIRCRAFT EXPERT PRES/ COUNCIL INDICATED THAT THE OPERATIONS EXPERT SMITH IS FORMER CHIEF PILOT OF LARGE AIRLINE AND IS IN IRAN CHECKING OUT PILOTS ON 727 S END FYI.

THERE ARE NO OBSERVERS OR REPRESENTATIVES FROM IATA OR IFALPA.

3. TEAM HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT FROM THREE COUNTRIES FOR VISIT. SCHEDULE IS TO BE IN LIBYA MARCH 21/22 TO MARCH 25; EGYPT MARCH 25/26 TO MARCH 30-31; ISRAEL APRIL 2 TO APRIL 7. THE TEAM WILL WORK ON REPORT FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS " PROBABLY IN ISRAEL", RETURN TO MONTREAL TO COMPLETE REPORT IN ANOTHER 10 DAYS. OVERALL SCHEDULE THREE WEEKS IN FIELD, TWO WEEKS ON REPORT, WITH REPORT BEING AVAILABLE NOT EARLIER THAN APRIL 25 BUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER. SECGEN POINTED OUT THAT TEAM LEADER HAS FLEXIBILITY RE TRAVEL AND DURATION OF VISITS IN CASE FINDINGS REQUIRE SLIGHT EXTENSION OF VISITS OR RETURNING TO A COUNTRY TO CHECK OUT SOME FACET OF INVESTIGATION.

FYI: ALL COSTS OF INQUIRY COME OUT OF ICAO BUDGET. END FYI.

4. INTERESTED STATES HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SECGEN OF TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND TRAVEL PLANS AND HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE EVERY POSSIBLE FACILITY AND ASSISTANCE.

5. PRES/ COUNCIL WAS ASKED IF PRESS RELEASE WOULD BE ISSUED ON APPOINTMENT OF TEAM AND INQUIRY SCHEDULING. HE SAID ABSOLUTELY NOT, AND ASKED COUNCIL TO REGARD THIS REPORT AS CONFIDENTIAL TO COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE HELD CLOSELY AND KEPT FROM PRESS.
TOPPING

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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